

## FIGHTING THE COVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

### BURNSIDE AND HOOKER.

A Defense of Fighting Joe.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have been a good deal interested in the fight between Burnside and Hooker, and I have been thinking about it a good deal lately. I am sure that the history of the war will be written in a way that will be fair to both sides.

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Right here I would like to ask "The Boy Spy" how many men would be necessary to storm and take these heights? And if he answers correctly, which I think he will, he will show that Gen. Burnside was not a fool.

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In May, 1863, Gen. Sedgwick captured those heights with the Sixth Corps, and moved on to the city of Fredericksburg. I was not there, but I have read the accounts of the battle.

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"The Boy Spy" tells us that in the Spring of 1863 Gen. Hooker organized the cavalry, and that from that time on he was in command of the Union cavalry.

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26th Conn. at Port Hudson.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In your issue of the 11th August, I saw the article "Daddy Port Hudson." I have been waiting to see if some more able mind than my own would write to you and refute the charge made by W. H. Webster against the 26th Conn. in the attack on Port Hudson.

With your permission I will briefly state the opinion of one of the 26th Conn. in regard to the charge on the 27th day of May, 1863, with the hope of vindicating the actions of our regiment.

Comrade Webster has seen fit to question the bravery of our regiment on that day, as follows: "There was just room enough between the lines of the shrubbery for one regimental line. The advance was ordered, Gen. Sherman leading the head of the column; the 128th N. Y. following closely, leaving the 26th Conn. and 15th N. Y. to act as support."

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COL. WASHINGTON'S DEATH.

The Story as Told by W. L. Birney.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Maj. Weiler, Co. E, 17th Ind., who recently wrote of the death of Col. John A. Washington near Elk-water, Va., has, I am sure, not only a right to say his own story, but also a right to say the true account. The Major is correct up to the point where Capt. Stowe was ordered forward with Co. E, 17th Ind., to reconnoiter; but here he seems to have been misled, and as his story seems to indicate that he wishes the exact account, I will give it.

When Capt. Stowe had reached a point where the road made it necessary for the detached Corp'l William L. Birney with two men to act as advance-guard, and ordered him to proceed along the base of the mountain to the right of the road to guard against a surprise. Wm. L. Birney and two men were sent on the road.

Ser't Weiler here made a request that he be permitted to be one of the squad. Capt. Stowe then ordered Sumner to remain with the advance-guard, and ordered the detachment of the advance-guard, because he had had considerable experience.

We moved forward at once rapidly, yet cautiously, and reached the top of the mountain, after crossing the stream, made a sharp bend to the right toward the foot of the mountain and came very close to the line of our advance. Here, while we were waiting for the advance-guard to be ordered forward, we saw a detachment of the advance-guard, because he had had considerable experience.

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U. S. ENGINEER BATTALION.

Their Services at Fredericksburg, Va., 1862.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In your valuable paper, and one which will be a mine of information to the future historian, there has lately appeared an article by J. H. Birdseye and J. H. Birdseye, of the Potomac, in which they state that the U. S. Engineer Battalion was part of the Engineer Brigade, Army of the Potomac, at least from November, 1862, to date of Gen. Meade's taking command in June, 1863. This brigade was composed of the U. S. Engineer Battalion, 15th and 50th N. Y. Engineers, and at the time mentioned was commanded by Brig.-Gen. H. W. Benham, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

On one occasion he reviewed the brigade and issued a complimentary order concerning its services. Except during the time mentioned, the U. S. Engineer Battalion was under the direct orders of the commanding General of the Army of the Potomac from the date of the organization of that historical army until its disbandment.

Its services before Fredericksburg were as follows: Nov. 24, 1862, bridge-building parties were sent out by the U. S. Engineer Battalion, and moved on with pontons at dark and completed bridge across the Rappahannock River at about 10 a. m., after having been once driven away from their work by an attack of the enemy. The bridge was built on the opposite bank, one of whom was captured. The 15th N. Y. Engineers built a bridge a few days distant at the same place.

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## ROCKE'S SHIRTS.

From Alert Comrades All Along the Line.

Information Asked and Given.

Thomas J. Roberts, Sergeant, Co. B, 6th East Tenn., Kismet, Tenn., says the men of his regiment, in order to join the Union army, had to leave home between two days and fight their way to Kentucky, leaving their families and friends to the mercy of the rebels, and mightily tired of this quality these men possessed, for they would not permit the women and children of these loyal East Tennesseans in a most barbarous manner. While his company were going to Kentucky they had a fight with some rebels, whom they defeated, capturing two of the enemy, whom they took with them. They had to hide during the